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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY U.S.S.R.

DATE: *copy sent*  
INFO. Prior to 9 September 1946

SUBJECT Rationing System for Food and Dry Goods

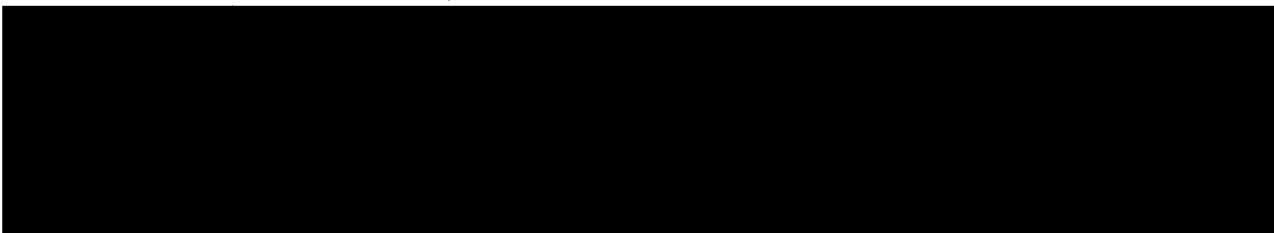
DIST. 2 January 1947

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PAGES 3  
SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN 

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1. The ration cards for food and bread are divided into the following categories:

- a. Ration card R-1: (It is not known whether or not there was a zero in front of the number one).  
For workers employed in armament factories and in machine factories. This group, including the engineering-technical workers (I.T.R.), receives: 650 grams of bread daily; 2 kgs of barley; 800 grams of fats and 2 kilos of meat a month. It is entitled to 500 grams of sugar; however, only 250 grams are allotted. Actual sugar is seldom obtainable; instead of it, beet-root juice or candies are given out. The card further entitles the group to 400 grams of salt, 25 grams of tea, and 3 boxes of matches. There are ration coupons for 12 kilos of potatoes; however, not for every month.
- b. Ration card R-2: For workers of all other professions and plants, including the I.T.R. who work in factories outside those mentioned under a.  
This group is entitled to: 550 grams of bread daily; 2 kilos of barley; 700 grams of fats; 1800 grams of meat a month; 250 grams of sugar; 400 grams of salt; 25 grams of tea; and 3 boxes of matches a month. The potato ration is 10 kilos.
- c. Ration card S: For employees regardless of where they work.  
This group receives: 450 grams of bread daily; 1500 grams of barley; 400 grams of fats, 1200 grams of meat a month; 400 grams of salt; 25 grams of tea; and 3 boxes of matches a month. The potato ration is six to eight kilos.
- d. Ration card I.T.: For the needy who, however, are able to work.  
This group is entitled to: 150 grams of bread a day; 5 kilos of potatoes. They are apparently receiving nothing further.
- e. Ration card I.N.: For the needy who are not able to work, such as invalids and old people.  
They receive: 300 grams of bread a day; 800 grams of barley; 300 grams of fats; 600 grams of meat a month; 25 grams of tea; 400 grams of salt a month; the potato ration is 5-6 kilos.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.  
Next Review Date: 2008

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- f. Ration cards D-01 For children up to two years of age,  
 D-02 " " between the ages of 2 and 5,  
 D-03 " " " " of 5 and 8,  
 D-04 " " (pupils) between the ages of 6 and 16.

The rations on this card corresponded roughly to the following:  
 150 - 400 grams of bread a day; 200 - 400 grams of fats; 600 -  
 1200 grams of barley; 600 - 1000 grams of meat a month. The  
 potato ration was five to six kilos.

2. Rationed food is distributed as follows:

- a. As a rule, salted fish is given out instead of the meat ration, in the same amount; or 12 eggs instead of one kilo of meat; 700 - 800 grams of sausage; 700 grams of canned food, or 320 grams of powdered eggs instead of one kilo of meat.
  - b. Fats: Vegetable fats are given out most of the time. Other fats, such as margarine and butter, etc., are only received on ration cards for children when they are available.
  - c. The distribution of rationed food items is made three times a month, according to the special announcements.
  - d. Bread ration can be redeemed on the day it is due or one day in advance.
  - e. Rationed food on bread are redeemed in certain stores according to customers cards, i.e., the customer has to be registered in certain stores. A certificate is required before the customer will be accepted in another store. When a person changes his residence, the superintendent of the apartment house must write a letter to that effect; and, if a person changes his place of work, he must obtain a letter from his new employer which confirms this fact. In these cases, too, the new registration will only become valid at the beginning of the following month.
  - f. The ration cards are obtained in the following way: The employers given the person in question a labor certificate, which must contain a seal; the superintendent of the apartment house where the worker lives signs and stamps this certificate, which is then handed in at the factory or other place of work. The worker is then given by the next employer the ration card, which must be provided with the factory seal. He then is able to register at the certain store.
  - g. The cards are not replaced in case of loss. In the Soviet Union, all ration cards are only valid in the place where they have been issued.
  - h. Outside the central cities, the allocations are thirty to forty percent lower than those mentioned above. No ration cards are issued to farmers on Kolkhoz or to people living in the country.
3. Ration cards for finished goods. These are divided into four categories, namely, for workers, employees, children, and the needy. The cards are numbered (one of it). They are given out for three months; however, their validity extends actually to six months and more. The workers' cards contain 140 units; those for employees, 100 units; and the ones for children and the needy, sixty to eighty units.

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4. All cards, i.e., those for food and bread, as well as for finished goods, have a different finish. They are covered by a different pattern in red, blue, dark-blue, yellow, green, etc. The ration for finished goods changes every month. However, the distribution of goods is so unsatisfactory that the cards are made valid for six months or more. This means that at the time new ration cards for finished goods are given out, the population still holds cards which have been used only partially or not at all. Source, for instance, received during five years only 3 meters of cotton material, for which he had to give sixty units, or twenty units per meter. For a pair of ordinary shoes, eighty units have to be submitted.
5. On the above mentioned cards, soap could be purchased in the amounts of 400 grams by workmen and 200 by people of the other categories. This distribution of soap, which was made rather irregularly, was the ration for a three months period. Toothbrushes, combs, etc., could be bought with the ration cards for finished goods.

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